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'Cheesy' senator to visit Slope BROOKLYN BRIEFS P 12

SMART mom Back to work for Hepcat

BROOKLYN'S REAL NEWSPAPERS

The Brooklyn Paper

Including The Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, DUMBO Paper and the Downtown News

Brooklyn Papers Publication

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CUT!

After complaints, movie crews banned in Heights

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Papers

Cut — that's a wrap. In Brooklyn Heights, at least. After three big-budget movie crews turned the scenic neighborhood into a Hollywood backdrop last week, the city announced that it would bar future filming there for three months.

City: Free parking on the block

Eye resident permits

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Papers

Planners from the Department of Transportation have begun studying a parking permit system that would discourage commuters from parking in residential neighborhoods surrounding Downtown — which could reduce the number of cars clogging the streets of Brownstone Brooklyn.

If the plan moves forward, residents of Brooklyn Heights, Fort Green and Boerum Hill will be able to buy curbside spaces with a monthly permit.

Boston, Washington, London and San Francisco already have such systems, but the Downtown study is the farthest the controversial idea has moved in New York, where free street parking is considered a birthright.

"By not encouraging commuters to park, you may discourage commuters from driving downtown," said Ryan Ruotolo, DOT's Downtown Brooklyn coordinator. "But by making it easier for residents to park, you may also be encouraging more driving."

See **BANNED** on page 12

For some Brooklyn Heights residents, the decision to restrict new filming permits didn't come a moment too soon.

Last week, the already cramped neighborhood was overrun with film crews and their movie star trailers, catering trucks and equipment.

On Thursday and Friday, Warner Bros. rented St. Ann's and the Holy Trinity Church to film the Kirsten Sheridan-led "August Rush."

And on Thursday, author-actor-director Ethan Hawke was on the Promenade shooting the film adaptation of his own hidden novel, "The Hottest State." Hawke also stars in the film.

And the next morning on Cadman Plaza West, dog-walkers were displaced by a white trailer. The trailer was for "The Devil," that served the crew of a Castle Rock remake of "Mostly Martha," starring Catherine Zeta-Jones.

As a result of the celebrity invasion, the Mayor's Office of Film, Theater and Broadcast placed waterfountain blocks of Renton, Pierrepont and Montague streets on the moratorium "hot list."

Such filming bans are rare, said a spokesperson for the film office. In 2003, the entire DUMBO neighborhood was temporarily made off-limits to film auteurs, thanks to residents' complaints — a move that emboldened other over-filmed neighborhoods to start competing for leases.

The film office heard plenty of gripes from Brooklyn Heights last week.

"The film companies idle their trucks," said Judy Stanton, executive director of the Brooklyn Heights Association. "They turn up our block and move our cars."

See **BANNED** on page 12



Paws to reflect

Wegman show kicks off at B'klyn Museum

By Lisa J. Curtis

GO Brooklyn Editor

William Wegman is not just a dog photographer.

So at a press conference at the Brooklyn Museum on Wednesday, there was Wegman, graciously displaying the same patience toward dog-obsessed reporters that he employs when arranging his beloved weimaraners into poignant and hilarious Polaroids.

Reporters, after all, were frustrated that Wegman hadn't brought even one of the grey pups with him for the photo-op.

But Wegman is quite serious about his art, which ranges far further afield than those reporters knew. And that's the subtext of "Funny/Strange," the museum's first retrospective of Wegman's work in 15 years.

Spanning 40 years of his creative output, it includes paintings, collages, works-on-paper, artist books, black-and-white as well as color photography, and video. Wegman didn't just sit and stared in. It will truly be an eye-opening for those who think the multi-talented artist only does splashy color photo-

graphs of those sad-eyed dogs.

"I wanted to give a sense of a mind that races, and I think that comes through in this installation," said Trevor Fairbrother, the exhibit's curator.

Wegman said he felt the exhibition was nearly "suffocating" with the crowded amount of work it displayed, but felt that the advantages are that it's easy to make connections between different pieces.

"I'm glad that it's all mixed up, that it's not chronological or by media," said Wegman.

And in most of what this witty, rural Midwesterner has tackled, you'll find a smidgeon of humor, a lightheartedness that's a breath of fresh air in the jaded art world.

The exhibition took its name from a simple 1982 ink-on-paper which depicts a ladder going down into a circle, a straw going up, and the words "Funny" and "Strange" and the deliberately misspelled "strange."

"He's always playing on multiple meanings," Fairbrother explained. "He finds something twisted, that twists that, too."

See **WEGMAN** on page 7



The Brooklyn Paper photo by Tom Callan

Demolition begins for Nets arena

Hindu: I'm all in

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Papers

Let the boycott really begin! Opponents of Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project renewed their call for a boycott of Brooklyn's most prominent Hindu, Steve Hindu officially declared himself in favor of the \$3.5-billion mega-development this week.

Hindu had toured the site of the project last week with members of Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, who hoped to persuade him that Ratner's plan was out-of-scale with the surrounding community.

But after the fact-finding mission, the beer minister — who last week said he supported bringing the Ratner-owned New Jersey Nets to Brooklyn, yet was neutral on the larger project — had the opposite reaction.

"After talking with the opposition and touring the site, we are more convinced that the Atlantic Yards project is good for Brooklyn," Hindu told The Brooklyn Papers. "Not only will it bring a professional basketball team, it also will bring much-needed affordable housing, jobs and economic development to downtown Brooklyn."

Hindu said he felt the need to clarify his position after critics argued that no self-respecting Brooklynite could support bringing the Nets to the borough, yet not have a position on the rest of the Atlantic Yards project.

His brewmaster, Garrett Oliver, had taken just such a position last month in what he believed

See **HINDU** on page 4



Brooklyn Brewery brewmaster Garrett Oliver (left) and Steve Hindu in 2000. Oliver sent an email in which he said that he — unlike his boss Hindu — opposes Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project.

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Papers

Bruce Ratner's demolition of buildings within the Atlantic Yards footprint has begun — albeit one brick at a time.

On Wednesday, workers started dismantling the first of six Ratner-owned buildings in the area of his proposed arena for the New Jersey Nets.

The first to fall will be a forlorn former food supply building at the corner of Pacific and Atlantic avenues, long known by locals as "Stenciled across its back and sides: Samuel Underberg."

The building is too old to go down by wrecking ball, according to demolition workers at the site, so it will be torn down brick by brick.

A moodily work of 19th-century architecture im-

plements "Solitude," the Underberg Building stands out at Ratner's Atlantic Center and Atlantic Terminal malls — two very 20th-century projects that typify Ratner's prior work in Downtown Brooklyn.

Forever looming over Atlantic Avenue's traffic, the 10-story building had a cult status among nostalgia buffs and observationists who appreciated the contrast between its moody geometric outline and malls' bright flags.

On March 23, project opponents will return to Manhattan Supreme Court to appeal last month's municipal court's plan the way forward to demolition.

Developer Don't Destroy Brooklyn (DDB) had challenged Ratner's right to take down the building before winning state approval for his project. DDB argued that by razing the building, the developer was actually causing the very neighborhood blight that is

See **ARENA** on page 4



The Underberg Building, which is being torn down by owner Bruce Ratner, has stood near the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues for a century.

The Brooklyn Paper photo by Tom Callan

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Cops grab Blood in man beating

The Brooklyn Papers

A member of the Bloods gang beat a man inside the Hoyt/Schermerhorn subway station, around 7:30 pm. He asked for a buck, but the victim refused, saying he was prompting the suspect to punch him in the face, giving him a swollen, bloody lip.

Police arrested the teen on robbery charges and collected

POLICE BLOTTER

Sundries snatched

The one's coat is good for the health. But it cost one Brooklyn woman nearly last week.

Police said someone took a shopping cart with more than

\$500 in various purchases from a 59-year-old woman in the seconds that it took for her to zip her coat and pull on her gloves outside Atlantic Terminal mall.

Targets transit

Cops nabbed a man posing as a bus driver to try to scam free subway rides.

Police said the 43-year-old

suspect entered NYC Transit's management offices on Livingston Street, near Jay Street, around 1:30 pm, dressed in a bus-driver's uniform with a fake transit shield, identification card and office key.

Employees saw behind the disguise and contacted cops, who later arrested the man.

Shipping hit

Burglars smashed the glass door at a Court Street store early on March 2, police said.

The vandals busted in, near

West Ninth Street, between 3:30 and 6 am. Inside, they rifled through the desk drawers and made a mess, but didn't take anything, police said.

Youth robbed

One 17-year-old said he

hadn't taken anything and was leaving.

Police said a 17-year-old boy lost his cash and cell phone to a thief who followed him through the Hoyt/Schermerhorn subway station and attacked him on the G train after 10 pm.

While the youth waited for a train, the thief approached and snatched his cellphone.

When the thief asked, "Are you ready to brawl for it?" the boy replied, "What else do you have?" she offered her iPod.

He took both and fled, but didn't get far. Police arrested him there and recovered both the cash and the popular digital music player.

Sources said it's the same man wanted in at least three other

attacks on victims crossing the street during February. A 27-year-old woman lost her iPod to a thief with the same description, during a Feb. 14 mugging.

And on Feb. 7, the suspect struck twice — just moments apart, cops said. He stole \$10 and a MetroCard from a 23-year-old woman around 8:45 pm, then attacked a 38-year-old female jogger five minutes later, netting a total of \$3. — **Stanton**

He then approached and said, "Be quiet. Do you have any money?" She turned over \$40, but it didn't satisfy the thief, who asked, "What else do you have?" she offered her iPod.

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The victim did, and turned over \$136 before the thief fled at Carroll Street.

Health or wealth?

A burglar seeking good health or wealth — or maybe just cash — came away empty-handed from a Court Street job on March 4.

Police were called to the vi-

amino store, near Remsen Street, at 2:20 am to find the front door broken and the cash register was broken open.

The 34-year-old owner later

said nothing was missing.

Caddy clips cop

A Cadillac driver nearly ran over an officer during a routine March 3 traffic stop and is now facing charges of assaulting an officer, police said.

Police said the driver, an over-

the-counter 41-year-old man

near the Fulton Street and Lafayette Avenue, at 9:30 pm.

Instead of pulling over, the driver floored the gas pedal and rammed into the officer, police said. The officer injured his hand as he swang at the driver's side window as the vehicle sped by.

Despite his distress, the cop

caught enough of the license plate for police to track the car, and the driver was later arrested.

2 women slain on Classon Av

The Brooklyn Papers

One 88th Precinct, which

had seen one murder in all

of 2005, has already logged

three this year, as a result

of two women in a Classon Avenue residence.

The 23-year-old son of one

of the victims discovered the

two bodies in a back room

inside the industrial building,

off Myrtle Avenue, around 5 pm on March 5, police said.

Both women — who were

alive at least as late as 10 pm

the night before — were stabbed multiple times in the head and body.

The distressed son found

his mother, Lan Juan Chen,

36, and his mother's 19-year-old

son, a 23-year-old man,

dead on the floor of the

apartment, police said.

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Police nab B'klyn Bridge mugger

The Brooklyn Papers

Police believe they've nabbed the man wanted in a series of late-winter robberies that plagued pedestrians on the Brooklyn Bridge.

Officers with the 88th Precinct arrested the 21-year-old suspect after they caught him in the act on March 3. Cops saw someone who resembled the bridge suspect and

followed him onto the footpath near Adams and Prospect streets, around 11:20 pm, where he snatched a 32-year-old woman crossing from Manhattan.

"This was a really good arrest for us," a police source said, noting that cops had been tracking the crook for over a month with various patrols stationed near the fabled tourist attraction.

The last victim said the

thief approached and said, "Be quiet. Do you have any money?" She turned over \$40, but it didn't satisfy the thief, who asked, "What else do you have?" she offered her iPod.

He took both and fled, but didn't get far. Police arrested him there and recovered both the cash and the popular digital music player.

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18,040 children / 8,913 teens are the exact numbers of New York City children in foster care on March 31, 2005.

Ratner-ACORN deal is finalized

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

Bruce Ratner has finalized a long-standing promise that his \$3.5-billion arena and residential project would be limited to 600,000 below-market-rate units.

Under Ratner's agreement with the housing group ACORN, the units can be built anywhere in Brooklyn — and that opponents are claiming that the project would do nothing to solve the ghettoization of Brooklyn.

"We are not going to be segregating homeowners by class," said Councilman Letitia James (D-Prospect Heights).

ACORN says that as long as the developer comes through with his promise to include 2,500 units of affordable rentals in the 8,300-unit Atlantic Yards site, the organization won't tell him where to put the low-cost condos.

"No one is saying that they won't be on-site," said ACORN spokesman Jonathan Rosen. "We have a preference, but in the end of the day what we want is to insure a mix of families living together in Brooklyn."

Advocates say that the currently planned project would be built with the developer's plan to have lower-income families get a foothold in a rapidly gentrifying neighborhood. Located elsewhere, the affordable condos would still ease the borough's shortage of affordable housing, but not tackle the issue of segregation, whether by race or class.

"Homeownership is how to obtain wealth in New York," said James. "Affordable rentals are good, but leases expire and people are turned out. Rentals can't create stable, mixed neighborhoods."

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HINDY

Continued from page 1
was a private email exchange with a disgruntled Brooklyn lager lover.

But that was no private email exchange: An angry project opponent, Fans for Fair Play, leaked the email to The Papers, who broke the "boycott" story last month.

"I live in the area and personally oppose the project," Oliver, a resident of Cobble Hill, wrote in the email. He said that he supported the measure, "if done right."

Hindy's delectable lagers, stouts, pilsners and ales had become the target of the boycott after he invited team officials and Borough President Markowitz to what he called a "beer and quaff his products" at his Williamsburg brewery last month.

"We supported the boycott from the start, but more so now that he says he supports the project," said Oliver. "It's educate to educate him about its problems," said Daniel Goldstein of Develop Don't Destroy.

Scott Turner, whose Fans for Fair Play Web site began the "Boycott You Drink" campaign, echoed Goldstein's thinking. "It's unfortunate that Steve Hindy supports a project that will make Brooklyn more generic."

Hindy's announcement comes just days after Fans for Fair Play released its own report.

The brewmaster had strayed from the company's existing line in the exchange with angry beer drinker, Ian McLaughlin, who had emailed Oliver that he would join the boycott because of the company's "suppression of Bruce Ratner's stupid arena project."

Most brewmasters would've hit delete and then checked the temperature on the primary fermenter. But Oliver did what Brooklynites do best: he wrote back. He gave his opinion. But talking out of turn got Oliver into hot water with his boss.

"He went too far and he has apologized to me about it profusely," said Oliver.

But he blamed McLaughlin for "hooking Garrett" into the email exchange. "I told Fans for Fair Play that they were ridiculous to claim [Garrett] spoke for the brewery," said. "If you want to do that, put it in your own words. Our warehouse manager, too," Garrett was speaking for himself."

Not that he'll do much of that anymore, Hindy said, deflecting a request to interview Oliver.

Despite Fans for Fair Play's claim that a boyish Brooklyn Lager is still being sold at Freddy's Bar, which is to the anti-Atlantic Yard side what Rick's Place was to excise in Casablanca.

ARENA

Continued from page 1
required before the state can exercise its power to seize property via eminent domain. The developer has argued that the Underberg Building, at 45-47 Atlantic, was in danger of imminent collapse.

"This is not the beginning of the project," said DDDB spokesman David Goldstein. "Until they have approval, the project is nothing but a proposal."

But Ratner is seeking to create a perception that the project is moving forward, one building at a time. The developer, Forest City Ratner, says it now owns 87 percent of the property within the 22-acre spread of the entire project, including 91 percent of the homes, coops and owner-occupied units, 75 percent of the rental buildings and 63 percent of the commercial buildings.

Goldstein is one of two condo unit owners who have not sold to Ratner.

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Monday, March 13, 6:30pm

Purim Service and Megillah Reading

Friday, March 17, 6:00pm

Family Shabbat Service and Potluck Dinner

Sunday, March 19, Noon to 2:00pm

Sisterhood Spring Fling

Sunday, April 2, 11:00am to 3:00pm

Open House: "Have You Ever Wondered..." Learn about all things Jewish, and all about Bay Ridge Jewish Center. Free admission and refreshments.

Sunday, March 25 and April 1, 8:00pm

Sundays, March 26 and April 2, 5:30pm

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A pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for March 15, at 10:00 AM. Interested parties should RSVP to Michael Devaney at 718-330-2371 no later than noon of March 14, 2006 to confirm their attendance and/or receive traveling directions. Two photo IDs are required to attend this meeting.

This document can be obtained online under the collective number 936 at www.panynj.info. It is currently anticipated that proposals shall be due no later than 2:00 PM on March 22, 2006. Send proposals to The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Purchasing Services Division, Procurement Department, One Madison Ave, 7th floor, New York, NY 10010.



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Man thwarts 8th Av. knife-wielder

By Lilo H. Stanton
The Brooklyn Papers

A 46-year-old man managed to fight off a robber armed with a knife on March 1.

Police said the thief took

shoved up behind the victim

around 11 pm, as the man

walked along quiet Eighth

Avenue, between First and

Second Streets. He pulled out

the knife and inched closer,

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POLICE BLOTTER

drawers had been ransacked.

Police said the thief took

the cash, but left behind an

old coke: a matchstick sitting

on the kitchen sink.

Bar burglarized

Police said a man burst

into a Ninth Street pub before

down on March 3, and left

empty-handed.

The 44-year-old woman

who owns the bar at Seventh

Avenue, said they closed at

1:30 am, when she arrived at 4 am

to do paperwork, she noticed

that the back door had been

forced open, an air conditioner

in the office had been kicked

out of order, and

Matchless

A thief stole \$100 from a

bedroom dresser in a Pacific

Street apartment, police said.

The 40-year-old man left

home on March 3.

When she returned to the

apartment, at Flatbush Avenue,

early the following morning,

her front window was pushed open and several

police arrived at a 14th

Street apartment just in time to

find a small fire in a burglarized

basement on March 1.

The 63-year-old owner said

she heard a noise in the front

door of the building, near Fourth Avenue, around 11 pm.

The prowler snuck into the

basement, rummaged through

an office there and fled out the

back — but not before setting

fire to a pile of papers by the

basement door, police said.

Plane gone

Someone snatched a \$200

wallet and glasses from a

construction site on Seventh Street, police said.

According to police, the tool

was inside the first-floor renovation

area of the home, near Fifth

Avenue, around 10 pm on Feb. 28.

The homeowner, a 48-

year-old woman living on the

third floor, told cops that when

workmen arrived at 7:30 am

the next day, they found that the

Makita tool had disappeared.



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Cops nab Bridge mugger

The Brooklyn Papers

Police believe they've nabbed the man wanted in a series of late-winter robberies that plagued pedestrians on the Brooklyn Bridge.

Officers with the 84th Precinct arrested the 21-year-old suspect after he stopped him in the act on March 3.

Cops saw someone who resembled the bridge suspect and followed him onto the footpath near Adams and Prospect streets, around 11:20

pm, where he robbed a 32-year-old woman crossing from Manhattan.

He was a really good actor for rest," a police source said, noting that cops had been tracking the crook for over a month, with extra patrols stationed near the fabled tourist attraction.

The victim said the thief approached and said, "Be quiet, do you have any money?" She turned over \$40, but it didn't satisfy the thief. When he asked, "What else do you have?" she offered her iPod.

He took both and fled, but didn't get far. Police arrested him and recovered both the cash and the popular digital music player.

Sources said it's the same man wanted in at least three other attacks on victims crossing the span during February.

A 27-year-old woman lost her iPod to a thief with the same description, during a Feb. 14

morning.

And on Feb. 7, the suspect struck twice — just moments apart, cops said. He stole \$10 and a Metrocard from a 23-year-old woman around 8:45 pm, then attacked a 38-year-old female jogger 10 minutes later, netting a total of \$3.

— Stanton

Crash on Fifth leaves one dead



Demolished car that was in the fatal crash at Fifth Avenue and Fifth Street in Park Slope last week.

When a garbage truck collides with a 1984 Plymouth, the driver was deadly.

This unfortunate scenario proved true on March 3 in Park Slope, when a privately owned trash behemoth crossed the yellow line and crumpled a K-car on Fifth Avenue, killing the Plymouth's 66-year-old driver, police said.

Paramedics rushed the victim, Sun Park resident Hartley Hebbard, to New York Methodist Hospital, where he died, leaving behind his wife of 30 years.

Police arrested the driver of the garbage truck, 38-year-old Gregorio Prince, of Queens, on an unrelated burglary warrant.

The Brooklyn District Attorney's office said it may eventually charge him with a crime in the crash, after police finish an investigation, but as of Wednesday, Prince remained in jail on the warrant, according to police.

Cops also hit Prince's company, Canal Carting, for several violations found on the 1986 truck, including three unsafe tires, and a horn, lighting and high-beams that were not functioning.

A man who answered the telephone at the Red Hook-based carting company said the firm would not comment.

There was no word on whether the driver, 38-year-old Philip Romano, of Brooklyn, had been drinking or using drugs, said Captain Philip Romano of the 84th Precinct, adding that it is standard to test for alcohol in such accidents. Neither Prince, nor his attorney, could be reached.

The deadly crash occurred around 9:30 pm, as Hebbard was driving north on Fifth Avenue. As he approached a stoplight at Fifth Street, the green garbage truck — heading south — crossed the line into the oncoming traffic, causing it to back up and pick up a load of trash, witnesses told police.

The massive truck then veered into Hebbard's Plymouth, spelling its and its driver's demise.



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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

March 11, 2006

Round Robbins

Marine Park's industry insider on piracy, 'Shaggy Dog' & Murphy

By Karen Butler
for The Brooklyn Papers

While Hollywood studios lament over diminished box office revenues due to changing viewing habits, Brooklyn-born filmmaker and TV producer Brian Robbins says he worries that technology, piracy and new DVD release strategies are going to translate into even fewer people watching movies on the big screen.

The Marine Park native and father of two says he's seen more movie ticket stubs and snack-trip scraps off some moviegoers, particularly ones with families, who think they can watch a flick more cheaply and conveniently if they wait a couple of months for it to come out on DVD — or buy a bootlegged copy on the Internet.

But Robbins also argues that there is no way to duplicate the experience of watching a comedy with an audience of strangers and sharing their laughter or viewing an action-adventure flick and enjoying the spectacular special effects on an enormous screen.

"I don't fear that the whole world that we're living in right now in our business, the movie business, could really become like the record business and kill it," "The Shaggy Dog" director and former "Head of the Class" hunk — remember Eric? — told reporters in Manhattan recently.

Asked if he would want to buy a theater ticket now, he confesses, "No," but adds: "You can't deny that seeing a movie especially one like 'The Incredibles' — on the big screen, that experience is undeniably I don't care how big your plasma screen is or how many speakers you have at home. It's not the same."

In discussing the industry-wide controversy over the proposed "day and date" practice of simultaneously releasing a movie in theaters and on DVD, the 42-year-old filmmaker admits he is "torn."

"Let's say, I went to see 'Madagascar' with my wife, Robbins said of last year's animated blockbuster, featuring the voices of Chris Rock and Ben Stiller.

"If I could go to the movie and buy the DVD on the way out, I would buy it," he explained. "But I wouldn't go back. I probably wouldn't go back and see it again, because I had the DVD. I don't know if that's a good idea to to see three times in the movie theater and bought the DVD once already, and then it will probably get scratched, and I'll end up owning eight copies of it. So, I would buy it 'day and date,' but I'm going to buy it anyway when it comes out, but it would stop me from seeing it again and again. It wouldn't stop me from going to a movie the first time."

The executive producer of "Smallville," "One Tree Hill," "What I Like About You," "The Amanda Show," "The Nick Cannon Show" and "Kendra and Kel" warns the illegal re-release and distribution of movies is the biggest problem the film industry faces today.

"It scares me," confided Robbins. "The technology allows us to see how we are to be really careful. It's all about piracy. It's not about how many DVDs will you

sell versus how many people are going to

It's all about how people are going to steal it. Once they start stealing movies on a big level, once the compression gets better, it's going to be really easy to get over the Internet and downloaded fast, the movie industry is in big trouble."

Pointing to the music industry and how it had to change its distribution and buying habits of consumers, Robbins notes there is no comparison between the number of songs that get legally downloaded from the Internet now and the quantity of albums record companies used to sell.

Dog days

One film that benefits from being seen in a theater with lots of other laughing people is "The Shaggy Dog." Robbins' new family comedy about an overworked deputy district-attorney (Tim Allen), who turns into a friendly, bearded canine.

In discussing the movie's success, though, from his new canine point of view, the DEAs sees how he has been neglecting his wife (Kristin Davis) and two teen-age children (Spencer Breslin and Park Slope's Zena Grey).

A man who started out making TV shows and movies a couple of years long before he had kids of his own, Robbins says his work takes on new meaning now that his family can enjoy and watch him.

"Now that I have two young boys and my life revolves around the Disney Channel and Nickelodeon, I'm looking for a movie to see everyday with my family. It's going to be great to make a movie that your kids can own and the school community that you are involved with can own," said the Los Angeles resident.

The director of "Varsity Blues," "Hardball" and "The Perfect Score" says he sees "The Shaggy Dog" as an important project because Disney movies tend to last and even his grand-children might some day enjoy it.



Teacher's pet: (Clockwise from bottom left) On the set of "Shaggy Dog" are director Brian Robbins with Park Slope actress Zena Grey and actor Mark Forbes. Robbins first earned fame as Eric in the TV series "Head of the Class," at left. (At right) Tim Allen and Robert Downey Jr. in a scene from "Shaggy Dog."

"It's a classic title," Robbins said. "It's really an honor for me to be involved in something like this that could actually have a long life."

Robbins says he liked the challenge of laying the story with humor that would appeal to kids and their parents. One suggestion to the DEAs was to have the dog character really talking. Instead, the dog barks and only the audience hears what Allen is thinking and saying.

"I thought this movie had a classic idea like a 'Liar, Liar, or a Mrs. Doubtfire,'" Robbins said. "But I thought that was a kid's idea."

"I felt it's a family movie. It's a generic movie, and I feel like a talking-animal movie would become something else, would become a little more juvenile."

Teaming up with Eddie

Next up for Robbins is directing Bushwick-native Eddie Murphy in "Norbit," a live-action "Shrek-like" fairytale, which starts out in an orphanage where Murphy's character is a child who's heart-broken when the sweet girl he loves is adopted.

"And he grows up, and he's always getting picked on, but he sees the glass as half-full," Robbins revealed. "He's sort of like Forrest

Gump. And one day on the playground, this girl comes and rescues him and she's this big, mean girl. They become boyfriend and girlfriend, and they go to high school together and they end up getting married and she just grows into this mean, nasty, abusive woman to Norbit. And then Kate, the girl from the orphanage, comes along and [Norbit] realizes that was the girl of his dreams and that's who he should have been with."

"The hook is Eddie plays both parts: Norbit and [the evil wife]."

For Robbins, working with his fellow Brooklynite on a movie like "Norbit" is a dream come true.

"I have been such a fan of Eddie's for so long," he said. "I was a kid in Brooklyn watching 'Saturday Night Live' before I was involved even in any of this, and I saw this guy who was amazing and I was blown away. I've been a fan of Eddie's sketch. So the opportunity to write a script that I think is as good as 'Norbit' and then direct Eddie is an opportunity I can't pass up."

Although he's concerned about the movie industry's future, Brian Robbins seems to be just as positive about Norbit's upcoming projects.

"'Shaggy Dog' opens in Brooklyn March 10."

Ridge Repertory Company
PRESENTS
Steel Magnolias
by Robert Harling
Sat. March 25, 8pm
Sun. March 26, 5pm
Sat. April 1, 8pm
Sun. April 2, 5pm
Tickets \$13 in advance
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Ridge Repertory Company making his debut, "The Sopranos" means, it seems fitting to kick off the event with a proper Italian festa. Just as the Academy Awards have spawned in-home Oscar parties, Brooklynites can prepare their intimate "Sopranos" soiree with a special "Entertaining Sopranos" book written by Carmela Soprano (and her husband, cookbook author Michele Scalonie).

Whether you're a fan of Bobby Baccala (played by Bensonhurst native Steve Schirripa), Vito Satriano (Bay Ridge's Joseph Gannascoli), Carmela (Greepoint native Edie Falco), or looking forward to Anthony Infante (Bay

Ridge's Lou Martini Jr.) making his debut, "The Sopranos" are always more fun when shared — over food — with friends and family.

That said, you'll want to refer to chapters 4 and 5: "Come to My Home: Open Houses and Family Reunions" and "Dinner and a Movie" for helpful tips including wine pairings and cocktail recipes; how to look good in family photos; dealing with drunken guests; and of course, recipes.

Baccala offers indispensable tips in Chapter 4's "The Out-of-Control Guest," recommending a three-prong plan of action in dealing with the party's "gavone": "Designite. Delubicate. Isolate."

But perhaps you're feeling gloomy about the season's impending end and would find comfort in Chapter 10's "The Final Celebration" which has recipes for those important comfort foods: gnocchi, pasta and chickpeas, and broccoli rabe.

The final section of "Entertaining Sopranos" will come in with a bonus section on Sunday, March 12 at 9pm on HBO.

"Entertaining with The Sopranos: As Compiled by Carmela Soprano" (Warner Books, \$29.95) is available, or can be ordered through Barnes & Noble in Brooklyn Heights [106 Court St. at State Street, (718) 246-4996] or Barnes & Noble in Park Slope [267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street, (718) 832-9066]. — Lisa J. Curtis

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WEGMAN...

Continued from page 1

But the artist's remarks have been shied away from the title of the exhibition, and the accompanying catalogue — and took a while to warm up to the idea of not just one, but his entire body of work, being labeled "Funny/Strange."

Examining of Wegman's most recent works, "Memento," Fairbrother pointed out how the artist's use of vintage and new postcards were a commentary on all the different kinds of art people enjoy, whether it's Michelangelo's "David," paintings of cowboys, or two men chafing in a room full of hunting pictures. The mural also illustrates the way museums' architecture, and the way art is dis-

played, has changed over time.

"And he throws himself into [the painting] by including a great dog Christmas card," said Fairbrother.

In the catalogue, Fairbrother adds,

"I'm curious as to why a curious fact that the number of such merciful, outlandish, and implement creations often comes across in public as a quietly pre-occupied guy."

Yet reporters always want to know about those captivating dogs. Whether representing Japanese television or the catalogues of the questions at Wednesday's press conference, the Webinars, starting with Man Ray in 1970, and moving to Faye Ray, and finally to Batty (short for Wegman) told GO Brooklyn that it was fitting that there was so much of Batty in "Funny/Strange" because he

was still heartbroken over her loss when the catalogue and this exhibition were coming together. In the exhibition, Batty is featured in 1999's "Bikini"; she's shot while wearing a leopard print bathing suit and a blonde wig.

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ART

"William Wegman: Funny/Strange" is on display at the Brooklyn Museum's fifth floor (200 Eastern Parkway), at Washington Avenue, in Prospect Heights through April 1. The exhibition runs through April 22, followed by a book signing on March 11 at 3 p.m. Admission is \$8, \$4 for students, \$3 for children ages 6 to 12, and children younger than 12. For information, visit the Web site www.brooklynmuseum.org; call 718-638-5000.

"William Wegman: Funny/Strange" is by William Wegman, a Brooklyn Museum gift shop.

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was still heartbroken over her loss.

The public clamors for details on how he trains the dogs — he currently has several that he's working with — but there is only one room of the exhibition dedicated to his signature 20-by-24-inch canine portraits.

Mostly, "Funny/Strange" spans Wegman's earliest years, the 1960s, to his most-recent landscape paintings, which often have intoxicatingly deep colors, especially his turquoise blue-green water and sky.

Wegman: "Something are surreal to paint; water is one of them."

The artist says that this retrospective comes at a time in his life when he's "generally very happy," surrounded by children (age 8 and 11) and his dogs in his Chesham home.

"It wasn't always that way," he said.

Where to Go

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal

SAT, MARCH 11

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

CROSSING GOWANUS: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment presents "Crossing Gowanus: The Gowanus Canal: Learn history of canal and future of Gowanus" at 1 p.m. on March 11, \$9 members, \$5 seniors and students. The event is at the corner of Smith and Prospect streets, in front of the drug store.

ECO-CRUISE: NYC Audubon Society presents "Eco-Cruise" along the waterways of the Lower Bay region, \$45, \$20 for students, \$15 for seniors, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet at South Street Seaport, 177 Water Street (212) 242-1969.

WALKING TOUR: Maurice Lawrence presents "A Walk Through Brooklyn" taking a walk through Fort Greene, \$25, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Meet at Marriot Hotel Brooklyn, 333 Avenue C.

ADMISSIONS

PERFORMANCE

NEXT WAVE: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents Cate Blanchett in "A Streetcar Named Desire" at 8 p.m., \$85, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. BAM (212) 367-3600.

RYAN REYNOLDS: Getting Off in a collection of one-act plays and monologues investigating the nature of desire, \$25, 8 p.m. on March 11, \$15 students and seniors, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. BAM (248 Bowery) (212) 967-8000.

WADDELL SHEPHERD: A performance by The Bindfisch Family and others at the Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch, 4 p.m. (212) 220-3600.

BAKERS: Brooklyn's original music concert of Protectors, Beethoven and Chopin, \$35, \$20 seniors, \$25 students, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Old Fulton Street at the Americana (212) 226-7000.

BAM: Mark Morris Dance performs "V" (2001), "Graffiti" (1991), "20" (1990), "The Seven" (1998), \$20 to \$70, 7:30 p.m. Opening night, BAM (212) 367-3600.

OPEN HOUSE: Brooklyn Company presents Donizetti's "L'Elisir d'Amore" at 8 p.m. on March 11, \$75, \$45, \$35, \$20, \$15, \$10, \$5, \$3, \$1, \$0.50. Meet at the Hall, corner of 65th Street and 2nd Avenue.

STAN'S WAREHOUSE: The Wooster Group presents Eugene O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey into Night" at 8 p.m. on March 11, \$37.50, 8 p.m. Sat. \$38. (718) 526-6778.

CHILDREN

HOUSE TOUR: Weehawken Central invites families to take a tour of the historic Weehawken House, 10 am to 2 p.m. 1696 Bergen Street (718) 575-4816.

GRASSY KNOLL: A "Grassy Knoll Show," a musical inspired by the true story of corporate twisty Dallas' "Grassy Knoll," \$25, \$20 students and seniors, 8 p.m. on March 11, \$15, 199, 194, 191.

MUSIC: Brooklyn Conservatory of Music presents pianist Kathleen Edwards, a multi-talented performer, a multimedia experience combining music, video, performances, vocal recitals and staging, 8 p.m., \$50. Seventh Avenue (212) 430-1000.

WOMEN'S FEST: Brooklyn Arts Exchange presents the "Women's Festival After High" at 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts (718) 238-1918.

PLAY: Our Lady of Guadalupe presents "The Story of the Virgin Mary" at 2 p.m. on March 11, \$10, \$5, \$3, \$1, \$0.50. Meet at the school, 109th Street and Avenue C.

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RUN AROUND: The Lycopersic opens its theater stage for "A Kid's Day Out" at 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 11, \$10 off some winter energy, 10 am to 2 p.m. 227 4th Street (718) 575-4816.

BRUCKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: Puppetworks' "marionette theater" of "The Wizard of Oz" \$8, 55 children, Recommended for ages 5 to 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., \$33 Sixth Ave. (718) 952-3329.

IMPACT THEATRE: presents "Ruby the Reindeer" at 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 11, \$10 ages 4 to 12, \$5 for 3 and under, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., 90 Underhill Ave. (718) 793-1348.

MUSICAL: Brooklyn Family Theater presents "Sleepy" sequel to "You're



Big 'Fishes': Actors Cate Blanchett (pictured) and Hugo Weaving will answer questions from the audience following a screening of their film "Little Fish" at BAMcinematek on March 12.

For info, visit www.broadbeach.com.

10:00 a.m.



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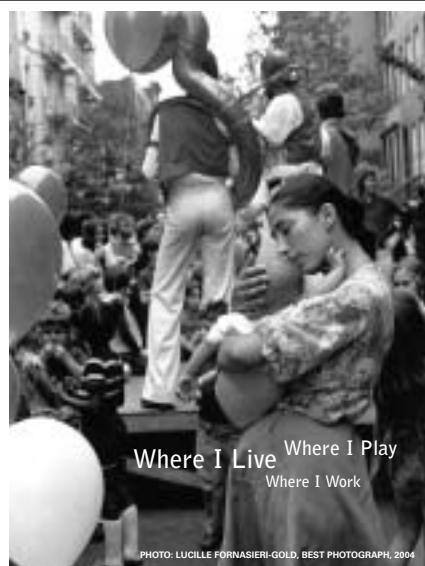


PHOTO: LUCILLE FORNASIERI-GOLD, BEST PHOTOGRAPH, 2004

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BROOKLYN BRIEFS



Vote 'cheesy'

The Brooklyn Papers

To paraphrase the old Levy's rye bread ads, you don't have to be a cheesehead to love Sen. Russ Feingold.

As evidence, the cheesehead from Wisconsin's cheese state will be honored next week by Kolot Chayeinu, a feisty, liberal Park Slope synagogue that billed the event as part of Feingold's effort to become the first Jewish president.

"We're a synagogue, not a political organization, but we do know he's trying to become a national figure," said Andrew Stettner, president of the congregation, which will honor Feingold at its 12th annual Purim celebration on March 18. "It's a good opportunity for him to speak to smart, progressive Jews in Brooklyn," he added.

As if Russ Feingold — the only senator to vote against the Patriot Act in 2001 and the liberal half of the McCain-Feingold campaign finance law — needed help winning the progressive Jewish vote in Brooklyn.

"We admire his stand for social justice and civil liberties, which few have done since 9-11," said Stettner. "He's against-the-grain, like we are."

How progressive is Kolot Chayeinu? It's so progressive that congressmen don't even need to believe in God.

"A 'no God' statement," the mission statement says, "doubt can be an act of faith."

The anniversary party, which will be held at the ornate Grand Prospect Hall in Park Slope, will also honor the usual suspects of progressive Jewry, such as Legal Aid Society attorney-in-chief Steve Banks, WNYC reporter/crusader-for-justice Andrea Bernstein and writer Tisha Arfin.

Notables from the Brooklyn Heights and Village Voice writer Wayne Barrett will make special presentations.

For tickets or information, visit the synagogue's Web site at www.kolotchayeinu.org.



A woman carrying a baby crosses Vanderbilt Avenue at Dean Street in Prospect Heights.

Traffic calming for Vanderbilt

The Brooklyn Papers

Stroller mom to the rescue!

Vanderbilt Avenue, which has become a four-lane mini-expressway for motorists seeking to bypass clogged Flatbush Avenue, will be losing two lanes under a main artery Transportation plan to calm Prospect Heights' main artery.

Starting next month, DOT workers will paint new lines on the four-lane street from the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, converting two opposite-flowing lanes into one left-turn lane.

"Everyone is very excited," said Danuse Oratowski, a member of both the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council and the Prospect Heights Parents Association.

"It's too unsafe to cross because cars are speeding to make all the lights. And they make crazy left turns."

The man-made mayhem — on the first block alone of Vanderbilt — got a little calmer after Danuse's Avenue, according to Transportation Alternatives, a traffic watchdog group. More recent numbers are not available.

Oratowski said DOT will install a raised median rather than just painted lines if the community can raise the money for it — which prompted at least one Vanderbilt resident to complain on his blog that taxes are typically collected for such purposes.

Oratowski also said that it was actually a stroller dad, Mike Dowd, who started the Vanderbilt traffic calming crusade last year.

— Kuntzman

CHECKIN' IN WITH...

Michael Cairol

The Second Avenue Subway. A cross-harbor freight tunnel. High-speed trains from Midtown Manhattan to JFK. To the list of unrealized transit dreams you can now add a tunnel to replace the Gowanus Expressway. But one local transportation czar says the sky-is-the-limit project is actually going to happen — or so says its chief cheerleader, Michael Cairol, chair of the Gowanus Community Stakeholders Group. This week, the group finalized routes for a proposed \$13- to \$18-billion tunnel for full environmental review. And Cairol, the state, which once resisted the notion, is now backing it. This week, Gersh Kuntzman checked in with the transit consultant.

Q: Forgive my cynicism, but I find it very hard to believe that the Gowanus will someday be replaced with a \$13- to \$18-billion tunnel.

A: True, it's not a measty amount, but look at it in the context of the future economic development of the Gowanus corridor. Having a tunnel will aid retail expansion, make the waterfront accessible for parks and make more buildings to the west of the highway available for mixed-income housing.

Q: Is this Brooklyn's Big Dig?

A: We avoid that term because Boston's Big Dig was best known for cost-overruns. But it has created a boom in Boston's North End that we think is comparable to what we would experience. What we're planning is similar to when the West Side Highway was torn down — it was a blight. But it's not now. Besides, something has to be done because the viaduct will only last for another 15 years or so.

Q: But the state could rebuild it for \$4 or \$5 billion. Isn't that better?

A: Cheaper, yes, but not better. Our tunnel is



not just a road-building project, but an economic development project that involves health care, public safety, land use and economic benefits that more than offset the cost of the tunnel.

Q: How did this come about?

A: In the 1990s, several community organizations asked the state to consider a tunnel rather than rebuilding the viaduct. The state turned it down, so the coalition sued. In 2001, the lawsuit was settled, and the state agreed to consider a tunnel alternative. That's where we are.

Q: The good news is that you have personal credibility on these issues. You're working on the extension of the Newark subway system, right?

A: Oh, man, what a lousy city that is! Traffic, smog, sprawl and unrelenting heat! It actually may be Hell on earth.

Q: Did you have a question?

A: No, just making a statement of fact.

BANNED...

Continued from page 1

People are just exhausted by it."

Of course, it could have been worse. Last fall, an Indian production company, Bollywood Hollywood, filmed a sex tape story on Cranberry Street. Over the course of several days of shooting, the crew had to climb up a brownstone to string lights, squashing plants and shocking its owners, who came home to find a trail of big-watt bulbs strung over their turbine, *"The Departed"* (which, ironically, is set in Boston).

And Warner Bros. said it would make a similar contribution in the name of getting a parking space.

"I don't know if the people around [here] consider themselves lucky," said *"August Rush"* spokeswoman Patti Hawn, "but [we're giving them] a good deal."

But not everyone is quite so exhausted.

Holy Trinity says the movie business pays nicely to rent space — and the church leaders' vow of poverty doesn't mean they don't devour *"Celebrity Magazines."*

Brooklyn offers the same structures that we have. Why don't they go there?" asked one far-from-starstruck Heights resident.

But not everyone is quite so exhausted.

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That's true for the church

— and for the city. In 2005, the film industry created \$5

billion of economic activity, according to the film office.

"Short-term inconvenience translates to big-time tax revenue and jobs," said film office spokeswoman Julianne Cho.

And film crews are well known for bringing hush money to local groups.

Martin Scorsese, for example, gave the Brooklyn Heights Association a nice "donation" to thank the group for its cooperation in the shooting of his soon-to-be-released gang drama, *"The Departed"* (which, ironically, is set in Boston).

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